Keith Newlin, Deputy Superintendent
USDI National Park Service
Allegheny Portage Railroad NHS/Johnstown Flood National Memorial
110 Federal Park Road
Gallitzin, PA 16641

Dear Mr. Newlin:

On January 23, 2008, USDA Forest Service personnel conducted a survey at Allegheny Portage Railroad NHS for hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), *Adelges tsugae*, and to assess the need for treatment. Two hemlock stands were surveyed, one located near the boardwalk and one near the picnic area. I am pleased to report that no HWA was found in either hemlock stand.

In the summer of 2007, NPS employees located several hemlock trees suspected to be infested with HWA. These trees were also inspected by our survey crew and a white oyster shell type scale was observed on several of the trees. Samples were collected and determined to be pine needle scale (*Chionaspis pinifoliae*). This is a common and sometimes serious pest of ornamental pines and various spruces. Less preferred hosts include hemlock and fir. Pine needle scale should not pose a threat in hemlock stands at Allegheny Portage Railroad NHS.

We encourage the park to continue to conduct surveys for HWA. If HWA is suspected to be present, our office will provide assistance to you in developing the best course of action to protect your hemlock resources. Please contact Brad Onken (304) 285-1546 or Karen Felton (304) 285- 1556, if you have any questions concerning this survey.

Sincerely,

Field Representative MFO

Cc: Kathy Penrod, Allegheny Portage Railroad
Wayne Millington, USDI NPS
Jerry Boughton, AO
Don Eggen, PA